

REPORT
OF
THE DIRECTORS
OF THE
MONTROSE LUNATIC ASYLUM,
INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY,
(INSTITUTED 1782.)
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1ST JUNE, 1849.

MONTROSE :
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LIST OF MANAGERS OF THE ASYLUM, &c.

J U N E , 1 8 4 9 .

- The PROVOST and ELDEST BAILIE OF MONTROSE for the time.
The FIRST and SECOND MINISTER of the Parish of Montrose for the time.
- 5 Sir ALEXANDER RAMSAY of Balmain, Baronet.
JAMES LYALL, Esq. of Gallery.
The Right Honorable Lord PANMURE.
PATRICK ARKLEY, Esq. of Dunninald.
GEORGE KEITH, Esq. of Usan.
- 10 DAVID SCOTT, Esq. of Brotherton.
Sir JOHN GLADSTONE of Fasque, Baronet.
THOMAS CARNEGIE, Esq. of Craigo.
W. MACDONALD MACDONALD, Esq. of Rossie.
Sir JAMES CARNEGIE of Southesk, Baronet.
- 15 WILLIAM FORSYTH GRANT, Esq. of Ecclesgreig.
The Rev. ROBERT BARCLAY, Minister of Lunan.
- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|
| | JOHN EADIE, | do. | of Dun. |
| | THOMAS HILL, | do. | of Logie Pert. |
| | ROBERT MITCHELL, | do. | of Craig. |
| 20 | THOMAS MACINTOSH, | do. | of St Cyrus. |
| | WILLIAM NIXON, | do. | of St. John's, Montrose. |
| | PATRICK CUSHNIE, | do. | of Scots Episcopal Church, do. |
| | ROBERT WADE, | do. | of St. Peter's Episcopal Chapel, do. |
| | THOS. C. SOUTHEY, | do. | of St. Mary's Episcopal Chapel, do. |
- 25 Messrs. ALEXANDER SMART, Montrose.
- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-----|
| | JAMES BURNES, | do. |
| | JOHN ABERDEIN, | do. |
| | WILLIAM JAMESON, | do. |
| | WILLIAM SIM, | do. |
| 30 | ROBERT MILLAR, | do. |
| | ADAM BURNES, | do. |
| | ARCHIBALD FOOTE, | do. |
| | DAVID BIRNIE, | do. |
| | Captain ARCH. MACNIELL, | do. |
- 35 Messrs. ROBERT TRAIL, do.
GEORGE SMART, do.
ROBERT BURNES, do.
JAMES CALVERT, do.
DAVID MACKIE, do.
- 40 ALEXANDER COWIE, do.
JOHN ROSS, do.
DAVID WALKER, do.
ALEX. VALENTINE, do.
THOMAS BARCLAY, do.
- 45 ROBERT WALKER, do.
JAMES SMITH, R.N. do.
JAMES M. PATON, do.
FRANCIS B. PATON, do.
JAMES GORDON, do.
- 50 ROBERT COWIE, do.

DAVID HILL, Banker, Treasurer.
JAMES LEIGHTON, Town-Clerk, Secretary.
JOHN D. M'GAVIN, M.D., Medical Superintendent.
JAMES NIDDRIE, Head-Keeper.
Mrs. WRIGHT, Matron.

House Committee of Asylum.

Provost MACKIE.

Mr ALEXANDER COWIE.

Mr ALEXANDER VALENTINE.

Mr ROBERT TRAIL.

Dr SMITH, R N.

Provost MACKIE, Convener.

Infirmary Committee.

Rev. Dr SMITH.

Rev. Dr PATERSON.

Mr ROBERT MILLAR.

Mr ALEXANDER COWIE.

Mr ALEXANDER VALENTINE.

Dr SMITH, R.N.

Mr MILLAR, Convener.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

ABSTRACT of TREASURER'S ACCOUNT for the YEAR ending 1st June, 1849.

CHARGE.										DISCHARGE.									
Interest Received	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	£126	19	2							
Labour of Patients, deducting Gratuities	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	49	3	9							
Lunatic Boarders—received	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	2870	4	6							
Loss, for by-gone year	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	18	7	0							

INFIRMARY.

ABSTRACT of TREASURER'S ACCOUNT for the YEAR ending 1st June, 1849.

CHARGE.				DISCHARGE.			
Interest Received, ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	£71	19	8	Paid for Furniture and Repairs ~ ~ ~	£39	6	8
Annual Donations ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	£280	18	5	Rent, Feu-Duty, and Incidents ~ ~ ~	207	17	11
Sum voted by the Managers of Lunatic Asylum 150 0 0	£430	18	5	Salary to Medical Superintendent } ~ ~ ~	119	0	0
Boards of Patients ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	1	12	0	and Servants' Wages ~ ~ ~ ~ ~			
Loss for by gone year ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	327	6	4				
				Coals ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	32	9	6
				Beef ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	58	5	7
				Meal ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	11	11	0
				Wine, Spirits, Porter, and Ale ~ ~ ~	56	6	9
				Oil, Candle, Gas, and Soap ~ ~ ~	17	0	11
				Vegetables ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	3	4	7
				Beer ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	7	13	6
				Cut Barley ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	5	1	3
				Medicines ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	64	3	0
				Bread ... ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	102	2	1
				Cheese, Butter, and Milk ~ ~ ~	35	18	5
				Tea ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	14	12	6
				Sugar ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	24	0	9
				Groceries ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	5	15	4
				Small Articles, per Housekeeper ~ ~ ~	27	6	8
					£366	4	7

Montrose, 1st June, 1849.

(Errors excepted.)

DAVID HILL, Treasurer.

ASYLUM REPORT.

TABLE,
SHEWING THE GENERAL RESULTS OF THE YEAR.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remained in Asylum,	70	62	132
Admitted during the year,	17	23	40
Total under treatment,	87	85	172
Discharged Recovered,	7	7	14
„ Convalescent,	1	1	2
„ Unimproved,	2	0	2
Removed,	1	0	1
Died,	7	4	11
	18	12	30
Remaining 1st June, 1849,	69	73	142

At the close of last year there remained in the Asylum 70 males and 62 females, making a total of 132 Patients; and since that time, up to June, 1849, there have been received 17 males and 23 females: so that no fewer than 87 males and 85 females—in all, 172—have shared the benefits of the Institution during the year that has just expired. The admissions for the past year do not equal, in point of number, those of its immediate predecessor, in which no fewer than *fifty-three* were received. This difference can, however, be accounted for by the Managers having been under the painful and disagreeable necessity of refusing several applications from a distance, in order that they might be able to accommodate Patients within the bounds for which the Institution was originally founded and endowed. With an earnest desire to supply the wants of the public at large, the Managers have extended the Buildings almost as far as their means will permit, and have, with the most praiseworthy liberality, thrown open the doors of the Institution, for the admission of Patients, to the most remote districts of Scotland. The Institution very seldom, indeed, derives much credit from these Patients, as they are, for the most part, incurable on their arrival. Two causes operate in producing this effect—viz., the want of proper accommodation in their im-

mediate neighbourhood, and the great expense and difficulty involved in their removal to this and other Asylums farther south. Among the admissions, no fewer than ten were derived from some of the most northerly counties in Scotland; and, with one exception, all of them were hopelessly incurable. In a few, indeed, the main indication to be fulfilled was the support of animal life, by the assiduous exhibition of cordials and nourishing diet.

The cases generally admitted throughout the year have been of the most unpromising and unfavorable nature. In one half the disease had lasted for a very long time, rendering the issue exceedingly doubtful; in only *fifteen* could a favorable prognosis be pronounced, while the remaining number were completely beyond the possibility of being benefited by remedial measures. Two were congenital idiots, and were confined with the view of their obtaining that protection and care which they were denied on the street. A third was forwarded to the Asylum solely because she was unmanageable at home, having on several occasions beaten her mother in a most unmerciful manner. She had been caged up in a small apartment for nearly twelve months, denied fresh air and exercise, and her diet consisted chiefly of carrots, of which she was passionately fond. The simple refusal, on the part of her friends, of her peculiar luxury was almost invariably followed by a paroxysm of rage and violence, lasting sometimes for days. As may readily be conceived, from the previous treatment to which she had been subjected, her appearance on entry was extremely miserable. She was emaciated and haggard, and her person was extremely filthy. For some days after admission she was noisy, violent, and mischievous, but very soon became quiet and submissive, and is now one of the best conducted Patients in the Establishment. Altogether the salutary change produced in this case gives countenance to the fact, that treatment in an Asylum is not merely an object to the curable, but is also of no small importance to those who have passed into a state of incurability.

The ages of those admitted were as follow:—Five were between 10 and 20; fifteen between 20 and 30; four between 30 and 40; eleven between 40 and 50; four between 50 and 60; while one only was between 60 and 70. It thus appears that the largest number were between 20 and 30—a period of life during which the passions are most

freely indulged, and when the judgment is not thoroughly matured. As regards the social condition of the admitted, twenty-eight were single, eight were married, and only three were widowed. The proportion of married to single was among the males as 2 to 14, and among the females as 6 to 13.

In the course of the year, *fourteen* were discharged as cured, *two* as convalescent, *two* unimproved, one was removed to a Private Asylum, with the view of being maintained at a lower rate of board, and *eleven* have died: leaving in the Asylum at the end of the year, 69 males and 70 females—in all, 142. The cures have been derived chiefly from the admissions of the past year, and from Patients admitted towards the close of the year immediately preceding. Many of them have been most satisfactory; most cheering accounts having reached me of one or two acting a useful and important part in society, who, but for the benefit which the Asylum afforded them, might have, in all probability, dragged out a miserable life at home, wallowing in filth, and rending the air with their vociferations. While nothing can communicate greater pleasure and delight to the officers and servants of an Asylum, than the restoration of reason to that class of Patients whose good fortune it has been to be placed early under treatment, a very extensive field for the exercise of benevolence and humanity is to be found in the care, protection, and guidance of those in whom severe, and, it may be, protracted disease, has driven reason from her throne, never again perhaps to be restored. A large proportion of those admitted belonged to this latter class, and although the number of cures effected has, in consequence, not been quite so great as in some of the preceding years, there is good reason for gratulation in the fact, that all have been, more or less, benefited and improved. Their residence in the Asylum has not only protected the public against their outrages, but has also removed the Patients themselves from many sources of irritation and annoyance, to which they were constantly exposed when at large, and placed them in a position insuring the greatest amount of happiness, compatible with their mental condition. It was remarked, in a former annual detail of the proceedings of this Asylum, that it would be desirable for all engaged in the treatment of insane patients to expunge from their vocabulary the term incurability, for the simple reason, that the same principles of treatment—the self-same means, moral as well as medical, which will prove successful in a curable case, will afford the

greatest good to the fatuous and demented. With the importance of this remark, I am every day the more deeply impressed, and the more disposed to adopt the precaution it involves. The lowest condition of mind found within the walls of a Lunatic Asylum is, to a certain extent, capable of appreciating kindness, and, although unable to resent it, feels the smart of cruelty or insult. The average time of residence of those discharged was nine months and fifteen days; but if we exclude from the calculation three Patients, whose stay in the Asylum was protracted, and who were dismissed as convalescent, it is reduced to five months and twenty days. One of the Patients, noted in the records as cured, was only two weeks in the house, his disease having partaken more of the nature of *Delirium tremens* than actual insanity. Another was a resident for only four weeks. In this case the attack was very sudden in its onset. Possessed of an exceedingly sensitive and honourable turn of mind, the Patient had embarked, with but small capital, in what he conceived would turn out a profitable speculation; but was, unfortunately, disappointed, in consequence of the unexpected depreciation in the value of the article he had on hand. Ruin staring him in the face, he sunk into a state of despondency and dismay, characterised by sleepless nights and anxious days. He sought for shelter in solitude, and hope in the Bible; but in neither could he find happiness; and at length the idea of suicide occurred to him, as the only mode of relief from his suffering. For some days after admission, he was morose, taciturn, and depressed, and passed his hours apparently in the deepest remorse, his mind being proof against almost every other impression. His recovery was as rapid as the attack was sudden, and the instrumental cause in bringing it about may be briefly stated. Two gentlemen, who are connected with the management, being apprised of the young man's misfortunes, in the most generous manner, and at considerable loss to themselves, came forward, and expressed their willingness to extricate him from his difficulties. Their noble offer was very soon communicated to the young man, and acted on him like a charm. His confidence in them inspiring him with hope, he became more cheerful and rational every hour, and was discharged perfectly recovered. While the history of this case is in many respects interesting, it affords an excellent illustration of the power of a purely moral cause in producing mental derangement, and, at the same time, furnishes a convincing proof of the utility of moral means in restoring mental health.

The mortality has not been so great as during some of the bye-past years. In 1847-8, the deaths in reference to the actual number under treatment, were at the rate of 10 per cent., while this year they do not reach 7 per cent. Seven occurred among the males, and four among the females. The causes producing the fatal result were, with a single exception, such as are most frequently found associated with Insanity. *Two* were occasioned by apoplexy, and in these cases disease of the brain had existed for several years; *three* fell victims to pulmonary consumption; *two* died of general palsy; in *three*, death was the consequence of gradual decay of all the powers of life; and *one* was cut off by typhus fever. This last-mentioned case occurred in November, when fever prevailed to some extent in the town. The Patient, on the first symptoms of the disease making their appearance, was as completely isolated from the rest of the inmates as our arrangements would permit, and every other precaution adopted, with a view to the prevention of such a formidable disease. Fortunately, no other case occurred. The largest number of deaths took place in June, in which no less than four occurred. In April and May, none occurred, while the remaining seven were equally distributed over the intervening months of the year. One of the Patients, reported as having died of general palsy, was a female—a circumstance deserving of notice, inasmuch as it has been questioned by some medical authorities whether this disease is ever observed among women. In the case alluded to, which is the third I have seen, the symptoms were exceedingly well marked. She had been an inmate for four years, and her previous history, as it appears in the Case Book, may be given. “The wife of a seaman, and represented as of kind disposition and gentle manners, but of rather feeble intellect, and apt to indulge queer fancies. Her behaviour, for sometime previous to admission, was very strange, and occasionally rather unsafe, she having destroyed somethings, and attempted to burn others, all the time seemingly unconscious of what she was doing.” For a time after entry, she was very discontented, and required to be strictly looked after, to prevent her tearing and destroying clothes, and other things within her reach. By-and-by, she became more reconciled to her situation, and betrayed sundry delusions, such as that she had abundance of gold and silver—that she had been a lodger in Heaven, and had come down for the purpose of buying a cow for the use of the inmates of the Institution. As the disease progressed, her raving became very extravagant. She fancied herself the owner of innu-

merable ships, which she could destroy and reconstruct at pleasure ; every thing she touched was converted into gold, and the very stones and rubbish in the Airing Court were precious perils. To this state succeeded the tottering gait and faltering tongue, so characteristic of the disease. The whole system of voluntary muscles gave way, and the involuntary partook of the same debility, till at length the individual, who not many years ago bore the impress of Divinity, was converted into one of the most wretched and repulsive objects that bear the human form. Epileptiform fits occurred in close succession, each more severe than that which immediately preceded it, until death spread his mantle over the unhappy sufferer. One of the Parties noted as having died of apoplexy was a dwarf, aged 60, who, in many respects, was an exceedingly interesting Patient in the Institution. At the age of *eleven* he had been apprenticed to the sea, and at that time was an active and intelligent boy. An accident of a very serious nature, however, befell him, which laid the foundation of that state of brain which, in after life, proved fatal. While walking on the deck he was struck down by a marling-spike, which had accidentally dropped from the hands of one of the seamen engaged at work on the ship's rigging. The instrument had penetrated the brain, to the extent of an inch, at the upper and middle part of the head. For some hours after the accident he lay in a state of insensibility, but by degrees recovered his senses, although ever afterwards he was subject to attacks of giddiness, terminating in fits, resembling epilepsy. His vision was also permanently impaired. The growth of his bodily organisation stopped completely, his height being the same (4 feet and an inch) at the day of his death as it was at the time he met with the accident. He had no whiskers, and the organs peculiar to the adult male were like those of a child. His mental powers approached more nearly to those of ordinary men, and he was unusually shrewd and happy in many of his remarks.

Among the admissions of the past year, there were comparatively few who evinced a suicidal disposition. One of this unhappy class of Patients was a female, who, at a particular period of life, had got into bad health, with which the brain sympathized, and a state of deep mental depression was the result. She had meditated self-destruction for several weeks, but in consequence of the strict vigilance exercised by her relations, was prevented carrying her plans into execution. At a time when the friends were partially off their

guard, the Patient made a desperate effort to accomplish her object, by cutting her throat with a knife. The wound, although severe, was not fatal ; and, to prevent its repetition, her commitment to the Asylum very soon followed. This Patient has never made any attempt on her life since her admission. She is now cheerful and happy, as compared with the miserable state in which she was for a week or two, and gives fair promise of recovery. Another young woman, of a well-cultivated intellect and good moral powers, but sensitive to an extreme degree, was also the subject of this most wretched form of mental derangement. Her father, who is her main support, had always acted towards her with the greatest kindness and consideration, and her conduct to him was invariably characterised by the extreme of gratitude and affection. Bound to each other by the strongest ties, a time came which put the kindest feelings of the poor girl to a severe test. The father was overtaken by a disease of a most serious kind, which lasted for a considerable period, and at one time threatened the destruction of his life. This entailed on the poor girl an extreme degree of fear and anxiety, which, together with neglect of her own comfort, caused by her incessant watching and attendance, produced derangement of her general health,—a state of apathy very soon followed, which, by degrees, merged into moping melancholy, accompanied by a desire to commit self-destruction. In cases of this description, it is a very difficult thing to ensure that amount of care and caution on the part of the attendants necessary for the prevention of the fatal act. The Patients are generally remarkable for their cunning, and their schemes and machinations are often contrived with a wonderful amount of skill and ingenuity. While no suicide has occurred during the year, the same can be stated in reference to the last four years of the Institution's history. This pleasing fact speaks forcibly in favour of the vigilance and cautious attention of the attendants, and affords to the public the best guarantee of the judicious arrangements of the house. No Patient, in the slightest degree suspected of suicidal intentions, is for a moment permitted to be alone during the day, and all are placed in dormitories during the night, where they are invariably in the presence of a nurse. By attention to these measures, I am satisfied that a suicide will be a rare occurrence in an Asylum ; and experience farther proves, that a course of kind and conciliatory treatment, steadily persevered in, will, in almost every instance, modify the unhappy tendency, if it should not altogether succeed in removing it.

Apart from those that died, the health of the inmates was remarkably good throughout the year. In the latter end of autumn, a few cases of bowel complaint occurred, in some instances assuming the form of dysentery, but in none was the result unfavorable. The healthiness of the locality in which the Asylum is placed—the liberality of the diet—together with abundance of out-door exercise, which is carefully enjoined when the weather permits, are amply testified to in the general aspect of contentment, happiness, and health, so marked among the Patients of all classes. There can be no greater mistake committed than that of feeding the inmates of Lunatic Hospitals sparingly, for the invariable consequence will be grumbling and discontent. A turbulent and troublesome community is just another mode of expression for a half-starved people; and it may be accepted as a truthful maxim, that wherever the physical wants are neglected, there will be found a corresponding degree of intellectual deterioration and moral depravity. Acting on the spirit of these remarks, the former liberal allowance of food has not been diminished, but, if any thing, increased; and, within the last few days, orders have been issued for an additional quantity of animal food to every individual in the Establishment. This step has been deemed expedient in consequence of reports being abroad, the truth of which is now beyond doubt, that Asiatic Cholera is very near our doors, and that a good condition of body is acknowledged by the most competent medical authorities to be the best prophylactic against its invasion. A little additional expense will thus, for a time, be entailed on the Establishment; but when the fearful ravages which this formidable epidemic committed in a similar Institution in Scotland, not more than six months ago, are considered, it is to be hoped that the liberty and responsibility I have assumed will meet with the sanction and support of the Directors.

While on the subject of diet, I may mention, that the number of Patients who have refused food, in the course of the year, has been smaller than usual. There were only two of this class. The one a female, from a notion that she was to be poisoned; the other a male, from having made a vow that he would not taste food for a given number of days, the length of time being known only to himself. In the former case, the difficulty was surmounted by placing a variety of articles within the reach of the Patient, aided by persuasion and patient endeavour; in the latter, the Patient's obstinate determination to keep his vow set all conciliatory and per-

suasive measures at defiance, and the injection of food and medicine into his stomach by means of the Œsophagus tube became imperative. The operation had to be repeated twice only before the Patient began to take food of his own accord. A somewhat singular circumstance connected with this case was related to me some weeks after the Patient's admission, by the ordinary medical attendant, who is a highly respectable practitioner in the town, and which furnishes another and rather a singular use to which that wonderful agent (Chloroform) may be applied. The Patient, while under this gentleman's care, had obstinately refused food for some time. After every inducement failed in accomplishing the desired object, the use of the stomach-pump was determined on, and at this moment it happily occurred to the Doctor that Chloroform might be serviceable. Food and medicine being prepared, the Patient was plied with the chloroform; and while partially under its influence he eat and drank heartily everything put before him, laughing and cracking jokes the whole time. The change altogether produced in the mind of the Patient was most gratifying. The Doctor, and a clergyman, who happened to be present at the time, and whom he had previously viewed with the utmost suspicion and dislike, he shook warmly by the hands, and acknowledged, in unmistakeable terms, to be his best friends and protectors. This is rather a novel application of chloroform, and I am not aware of it ever having been tried under precisely similar circumstances. In all cases of refusal of food, if its application be equally successful as in that just now described, a decided boon will be conferred on that class of Patients, on many of whom a painful, and sometimes dangerous operation requires to be performed, with a view to the preservation of their lives.

During the year the spirit of improvement, wherever such appeared necessary, has not been allowed to slumber; and everything has been done to maintain the character of the Asylum, and conduce to its public utility. Although the alterations effected have not been of the same magnitude as those which were carried into effect during some of the previous years, some of them have been of no less importance as regards the convenience of the Servants, and the health and comfort of the Patients. I would particularly allude to the regular supply of water, which was secured by connecting a branch pipe of larger diameter than that which originally entered the house with the main pipe, which encircles the Wet Dock. In former years, the supply often fell con-

siderably short of the demand ; and in summer, particularly, it often happened that the Institution was without water altogether for nearly a whole day. By the judicious arrangements of the Directors, this difficulty has been completely removed, and the supply of this most essential element is now abundant. The Garden and grounds in connection with the house have been very considerably improved, several hundred tons of loam having been procured from the banks of the Thames, and added to the original soil, which is light and sandy. A variety of trees have also been planted, and arranged in such a manner as not only to beautify the grounds, but also to break the violence of the wind, which frequently commits great havoc among the vegetables. A variety of other improvements were also made, which were noticed in my ordinary Monthly Reports, and need not, therefore, be particularised at present.

The general mode of management and the treatment of the Patients have been conducted on principles similar to those recognised and acted on in previous years. Every means, medical and moral, which the most enlightened views of the history of mind and its diseases suggests, is adopted in practice ; and while the main object, the recovery of all committed to our care, is constantly kept in view, no effort is spared which can, in the least degree, contribute to the comfort and well-being of all within the walls of the Establishment. Our means for the employment of that class of our inmates who had formerly been engaged in agricultural pursuits are much too limited, and it is deeply to be regretted that an amount of ground in the immediate vicinity of the Institution, adequate to our wants, cannot conveniently be obtained. Indoor occupation has been carried on with much spirit, and the result of the Patients' labours has been frequently witnessed by the members of the House Committee. In the carpenter's shop, a great variety of articles, indispensable to the Establishment, have been manufactured—such as chairs, both plain and ornamental, toilet tables, basin stands, mirrors, &c. ; and within the last few weeks, a considerable number of Golf clubs have been made, in a manner exceedingly creditable to the ingenuity of the amateur mechanic. In the female department, the work done was too extensive and varied to permit of being particularized within the limits of this Report.

In bringing my remarks to a close, I cannot omit mentioning an event, the occurrence of which cannot be too

deeply deplored—I allude to the lamented death of our esteemed and respected Matron, Mrs Brown. Seized with pulmonary consumption in the latter end of December, she gradually sunk under its withering influence, and died in the middle of March. By her death, society has been deprived of a useful life—the Institution has lost a most valuable officer—and the unfortunate objects of her care and solicitude have been left to lament the departure of one whose ear was ever open to their tales of distress, and whose sympathy was as unbounded as it was sincere. I believe I utter the sentiments of the Directors, while I state, that during the six years she discharged the onerous and important duties of Matron, her patient consideration of every interest connected with her department, and her unceasing efforts to inspire all around her with happiness, were such as to merit their highest approbation. During Mrs Brown's last illness, and since her death, the duties of Matron have been performed by Mrs Wright, who has for six years been connected with the Asylum in the capacity of principal female attendant, and whose conduct has given much satisfaction. In conclusion, I have to acknowledge the services of all who have cooperated with me in conducting the affairs of the Establishment for the past year. To our respected and valuable Chaplain, Mr Wilson, I am more especially indebted for the able, earnest, and judicious manner in which he has discharged the important duties of his sacred trust. His ministrations have been productive of much good, and have proved a powerful auxiliary in the moral management of the inmates.

I would also respectfully offer my best thanks to the Directors, and especially to the House Committee, for the countenance and support they have extended to me, and to express a sincere wish that the Institution over which they have the honor to preside, may long maintain the celebrity which it has hitherto enjoyed.

JOHN D. M'GAVIN, M.D.

MONTROSE, JUNE 13, 1849.

REPORT BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

THE House Committee have continued their usual weekly visits to the Asylum during the past year ; and on all occasions have found the most perfect order and cleanliness prevailing throughout the Establishment. The Committee have had ample opportunity of witnessing the decided improvement that has been effected on the general comfort and convenience of the Patients, by the additions and alterations that have been so judiciously made, from time to time, during the past and previous year ; and they refer with especial satisfaction to the complete classification now adopted, an object, the attainment of which, they have long contemplated, and the securing of which alone they reckon more than equivalent for all the outlay that has been occasioned.

In compliance with the resolution of last Annual Meeting, the Committee have now the pleasure of reporting that they have succeeded in introducing into the Asylum an abundant supply of fresh water, which removes an inconvenience under which the inmates have laboured for a considerable period.

At one of the recent Monthly Meetings the Committee was instructed to obtain a copy from an original drawing of the late Mrs Carnegie of Charlton, (one of the principal founders and benefactors of the Asylum,) to commemorate their sense of that Lady's eminently successful and disinterested exertions in behalf of the Institution. The Painting has been executed in the most faithful and satisfactory manner, and now awaits the approval of the Managers, previous to being conveyed to its destination, in some suitable part of the Asylum.

The amusements and occupations of the Patients have continued much the same as in the previous year. In the Wright's department especially, great activity has been manifested, and many articles of a useful description have been constructed for the Asylum.

The Committee regret that they have yet been unable to procure an additional space of ground for the full employment and recreation of those Patients who prefer out-door occupations ; but they hope, during the current year, (now that the line of Railway has been finally determined,) to secure such additional accommodation as will complete their arrangements in these respects.

The Committee would beg to renew their full testimony to the continued efficiency of the Medical Superintendent (Dr M'Gavin), and express their sincere regret at the prospect of losing his valuable services.

After the lamented decease of the late Matron, Mrs Brown, whose services were fully appreciated, and repeatedly acknowledged by the Managers, the Committee appointed Mrs Wright, the Assistant Matron, to take charge of this department ; and so entirely satisfied have they been with Mrs Wright's management in her new sphere, that they unanimously recommend her appointment to the office for one year.

Mr Niddrie, the Head Keeper, and his Assistants, merit the continued approbation of the Committee.

D. MACKIE,
Chairman of House Committee.

REPORT OF INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY,

For 1848-9.

ON June 1st, 1848, there remained in the House 19 Patients. During the year, the admissions amounted to 455—making the number treated during the year 474. Of these there have been discharged, cured, 388; improved, 22; convalescent, 5; left, 3; unfit, 3; by desire, 2; removed, 1; irregular, 4; died, 31,—leaving under treatment at this date, 15.

The average time each Patient remained in the House was 27 days, and the various diseases under which they laboured were as follows :—Fever, 128; Disease of Chest, 27; Ulcers and Diseases of Joints, 58; Injuries, 53; Diseases of Skin, 30; Tumors, 7; Diseases of Head and Neck, 15; Diseases of Eyes, 11; Erysipelas, 16; Measles and Scarlet Fever, 18; Disease of Bowels, 12; Disease of Urinary Organs, 7; Small Pox, 19; Dyspepsia, 12; Rheumatism, 37; Paralysis, 1; Syphilis, 11; Burn, 4; Spinal Irritation, 5; Hernia, 3.

The proportion of Fever cases treated during the past year was large, and the character of the Fever, in some respects, considerably different from that which usually appears in this locality during the winter months, the symptoms being more of an inflammatory nature, particularly in the early stage, in which it was in many cases characterized by determination to the head, requiring bleeding, and other active treatment; in others, severe affections of the bowels appeared in the latter stage, which rendered the convalescence tedious, and difficult of management.

The Eruptive Fevers also, including Small Pox, were more prevalent during the past winter; Scarlet Fever especially, which has raged with such melancholy severity in the town and surrounding district, has supplied the Wards with an unusual number of cases.

The number of cases treated at the Dispensary and at their own houses, during the past year, was 830.

GEO. L. SMITH, M.D. } Surgeons.
JOHN D. M'GAVIN, M.D. }

Montrose Royal Infirmary, May 31, 1849.

REPORT OF INFIRMARY COMMITTEE.

1st JUNE, 1849.

THE hope that your Committee expressed last year, that the expenses would be considerably diminished this year, has not been realized. Although the number of admissions is 85 less than in the preceding year, yet, as the average number of days during which the Patients were under treatment is 27 days against 24 days in 1848, the expenses of the House have been capable but of slight reduction.

The Report of the Medical Superintendents shews the number of in and out-door Patients treated during the year, and your Committee have to express their satisfaction with the manner in which these gentlemen continue to discharge their duties.

The sum of £150 was voted from the general fund at the last Annual Meeting towards the support of the Infirmary, in addition to which there has been received from—

Collections from Churches and Congregations,.....	£90	19	0
Donations from Private Individuals,.....	130	3	0
Banks and Millowners,.....	28	7	0
Societies and Workpeople,.....	17	15	11
Shipmasters, &c.,.....	8	13	6
Mr J. Brebner, Railway Contractor,..	5	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£280	18	5

The following legacies have been received during the year—£100 from the late William Dorward, Esq., Montrose; and £25 from the late Alexander Renny Tailyour, Esq. of Newmanswalls.

While the Committee gratefully acknowledge the support which the Infirmary continues to enjoy, they are under the necessity of drawing attention to the fact of the income being still insufficient for the necessary expenditure, and they trust that private individuals and others will come forward more liberally with their donations.

ROBT. MILLAR,
Chairman of Infirmary Committee.

DONATIONS TO THE MONTROSE INFIRMARY,

For Year ending 1st June, 1849.

PUBLIC BODIES, BANKS, AND MILLOWNERS.

The Western Bank of Scotland,	£3	3	0
The British Linen Co.,	3	3	0
The National Bank of Scotland,	3	3	0
The Bank of Scotland,	3	3	0
Messrs John and George Paton, Montrose,	5	5	0
Messrs Aberdein, Gordon, & Co., do.	5	5	0
Messrs Richards & Co., do.,	5	5	0
The Managers of the Lunatic Asylum, do.,	150	0	0
The Trustees of Arthur Anderson,s Charitable Fund, Aberdeen,	10	0	0
	<hr/> £188 7 0		

PARISHES AND CONGREGATIONS.

The Parish of Aberlemno,	3	0	0
~ Parish of Logie Pert,	5	0	0
~ Free Kirk Congregation of Benholm,	3	0	0
~ Parish of Arbuthnott,	3	0	0
~ Parish of Maryton,	2	0	3
~ Parish of Farnell,	1	15	0
~ Parish of Lethnott,	2	0	0
~ Parish of Kinnell,	2	0	0
~ Parish of Laurencekirk,	4	0	0
~ Parish of Craig,	3	3	0
~ Parish of Marykirk,	4	5	7
~ Parochial Board of Marykirk, :	3	0	0
~ Parish of Garvoek,	2	1	6
~ Parish of Lochlee,	3	0	0
~ Free Kirk Congregation of Ferryden,	2	10	0
~ Parochial Board of Fettercairn,	3	0	0
~ Parish of Montrose,	22	0	0
~ Parish of Fordoun,	8	0	0
St George's Free Kirk, Montrose,	7	5	0
The Free Kirk Congregation of Logie Pert,	5	0	0
	<hr/> 89 0 4		

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Montrose Foundry Co., Montrose,	2	2	0
Messrs J. & G. Paton's Workers, Chapel Mill, do.,	9	0	0
The Craigo Works' Band, proceeds of a Concert,	5	11	3
The Workers at Hatton Spinning-Mill,	1	18	8
The Shipmasters, &c. of Montrose,	8	13	6
Messrs Richards & Co.'s Flaxdressers, Social Meeting,	3	4	8
	<hr/> 30 10 1		
Carried forward	<hr/> £307 17 5		

Brought forward,

£307 17 5

INDIVIDUALS.

Sir James Carnegie of Southesk, Bart.,	£5	5	0
Alexander Cowie, Esq., Montrose,	1	1	0
John Stephen, Esq., Warburton,	1	1	0
Thomas Whyte, Esq., Montrose,	2	2	0
Miss Renny, Castle Street, do.,	1	1	0
Alexander Renny Tailyour, Esq. of Borrowfield,	3	3	0
Miss Scott of Rossie, Montrose,	1	1	0
A Lady, per the Rev. Dr Paterson, Montrose,	1	0	0
George Keith, Esq. of Usan,	3	3	0
George Neil, Esq., Borrowfield,	1	1	0
Mr George Shepherd, Ship-Chandler, Montrose,	1	1	0
David Scott, Esq. of Brotherton.	2	0	0
James Inverarity, Esq. of Rosemount,	2	2	0
Messrs John Brown & Son, Shipbuilders, Montrose,	2	2	0
Alexander Lindsay, Esq., Montrose,	1	1	0
Robert Walker, Esq., do.,	1	1	0
Messrs Jas. & David Birnie, Shipbuilders, Montrose,	2	2	0
John Guthrie, Esq., do.	1	1	0
Robert Trail, Esq., do.	1	1	0
James Beattie, Esq., do.	1	1	0
Mr Alexander Middleton, Plasterer, do.	1	1	0
Thomas Carnegy, Esq., of Craigo,	5	0	0
William M. Macdonald, Esq. of Rossie,	5	0	0
James Lyall, Esq. of Gallery,	2	0	0
William Jameson, Esq., Montrose,	1	1	0
David Walker, Esq., do.	1	1	0
Robert Hunter, Esq., do.	1	1	0
Dr. James Smith, R. N., do.	1	1	0
Alex. Valentine, Esq., do.	1	1	0
John Duncan, Esq. of Parkhill,	1	1	0
Mr James Salmond, Newbigging,	1	0	0
George Cooper Myers, Esq., Montrose,	1	1	0
C— A—	1	0	0
Mr Thomas Middleton, Ironmonger, Montrose,	1	0	0
A Friend, per the Rev. Dr Smith, do.	1	0	0
Messrs F., J., & F Japp, Upholsterers, do.	2	2	0
Sir John Stewart Forbes of Fettercairn,	1	0	0
The Rev. Robert Wade, St. Peter's Chapel, Montrose,	1	0	0
W—	1	0	0
A Friend, per the Rev. Dr Smith, Montrose,	1	0	0
Sir John Gladstone of Fasque,	1	0	0
David Greenhill, Esq., Charlton,	5	0	0
John Myers, Esq., Roseville Cottage,	1	1	0
Robert Millar, Esq., Montrose,	1	1	0
A Friend, per do., do.	1	1	0
John Beattie, Esq., do.	1	1	0
Joseph Hume, Esq., M. P.,	1	0	0
Fred. Swatman, Esq., Collector of Customs, Montrose	1	1	0
Robert Burness, Esq., Writer, do.	1	1	0
Miss Scott of Criggie, do.	1	1	0
Mrs Whyte, do.	2	0	0
Alexander Gordon, Esq., do.	1	0	0
A Lady, per the Rev. Robert Wade, do.	1	1	0
Miss Shand, Montrose, £10 & £10,	20	0	0
Major George Balfour, Madras Artillery,	0	10	6
A Friend, per Dr George L. Smith, Montrose,	1	1	0
Captain Ingram, Preventive Service, do.	1	0	0
Miss Greenhill, Charlton,	2	0	0

Carried forward,

£107 19 6

£307 17 5

Brought forward, ..	£107	19	0	£307	17	5
Mr John Nicoll, Bridge-end, Montrose, .	1	1	0			
Mr Thomas Moore, do.	1	0	0			
David Inglis, Esq., Bailies, Lochlee,	0	10	6			
Mr Robert Rew, Laurencekirk,	1	0	0			
A Friend, per the Rev. Dr Paterson, Montrose, .	5	0	0			
Mr John Brebner, Railway Contractor, Dunthill, .	5	0	0			
A Friend, per the Rev. Dr Smith, Montrose, .	1	0	0			
A Lady, per do. do.,	0	10	0			
					123	1 0
						£430 18 5

(E.E.)

DAVID HILL, Treasurer.

MONTROSE, June 1, 1849.